

order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. OWENS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HORN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from West Virginia [Mr. WISE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. WISE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. KIM] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. KIM addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. JACKSON-LEE addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. DORNAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DORNAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DOGGETT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DOGGETT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas [Mr. BROWNBACK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BROWNBACK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Vermont [Mr. SANDERS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SANDERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### IMMIGRATION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. BARR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the Committee on the Judiciary of this 104th Congress reported out, after extended hearings and even more extended markup, immigration reform legislation which for the very first time in modern times will in fact actually substantively and positively reform both the system of illegal immigration and our efforts by this Government to combat this tremendous drain on our national resources as well as legal immigration.

I am happy to have been a part of that process, but what makes me even happier is an event that happened in my own district in Smyrna, GA, this past Monday evening. This past Monday evening, State Representative Randy Sauder pulled together for the very first time in the district—and probably for the first time in the State of Georgia—a comprehensive task force to study the effects of illegal immigration and to develop solutions to the problem of illegal immigration in our district.

Representative Sauder pulled together as members of this task force, in addition to myself and representatives from other congressional and Senatorial offices, a vast array of local and State law enforcement officials, other State representatives, municipal authorities, police chiefs, other law enforcement officials, the regional director of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, representatives of the Department of Labor, other agents and, perhaps most importantly of all, a number of private citizens who were involved with illegal immigration—combating illegal immigration—that is, in their communities and in their businesses.

And through the work of this task force, which began last Monday evening, on the eve of our historic action in the Committee on the Judiciary, passing this important legislation to be considered hopefully very soon by this very body, was a process of really coming to grips with and letting those of us in the Congress responsible for drafting the laws with regard to both legal and illegal immigration, a comprehensive look at how illegal immigration has affected and continues to adversely affect our communities in terms of the number of illegal aliens involved in criminal activity, in terms of the financial burdens placed on our communities, not just in the Seventh District of Georgia but indeed in many respects all across this country, the drain on the medical services, the drain on our welfare system and, indeed, other problems that are too lengthy to go into here this evening.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Representative Sauder for his foresightedness in recognizing this problem, in recognizing that its

solution goes far beyond the bounds of any one jurisdiction. It affects our homes, our schools, our businesses, our hospitals, our religious institutions, our local government, our State government and, indeed, all taxpayers of this country.

Through the work of Representative Sauder's task force, we hope over the next several months, Mr. Speaker, to really delve into the problem of illegal immigration and how it affects our communities. This work will be especially important to me as a Representative from the Seventh District to assist me in crafting the very best legislation possible, to identify those areas where additional work needs to be done, to helping direct precious taxpayer resources to combat the problem of illegal immigration in America. And I salute Representative Sauder for his work and look forward to working closely with him as an important part of the overall legislative effort of this Congress and future Congresses to come to grips with the crippling problem of illegal immigration in our country.

#### NURSING HOME STANDARDS PRESS CONFERENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it defies common sense that Republicans are stripping away basic protections for elderly residents of nursing homes, under the guise of cutting the bureaucracy. The fact of the matter is that quality standards for nursing homes are not bureaucratic and onerous, they are necessary. These regulations don't tie the hands of nursing homes, they keep nursing homes from tying the hands of seniors.

Now, I cannot believe that my Republican colleagues are deliberately trying to put nursing home residents at risk, so I must conclude that they simply don't understand how these regulations protect nursing home residents from neglect and abuse. So, let me explain, briefly, how they work in my home State of Connecticut.

As one Connecticut official comments in this article: "Without these standards and people to watch them, these situations will continue. That man might still be counting the dots on the ceiling."

The Republican Medicaid plan will mean the end of uniform safety standards for nursing home residents. It will create a patchwork of standards across the country. Some States may do a great job, others may not. For nursing home patients it will be a crap shoot. The quality of your care will depend on where you live. That's wrong. Our seniors deserve better.

Now, my Republican colleagues want the American people to believe that this budget package is about shared sacrifices for a noble purpose. But,